



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Detroit District

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News Release

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Poe Lock reopened after temporary shutdown

DETROIT – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District reopened the Poe Lock late Friday evening after a temporary gate malfunction.

At approximately 9:45 p.m. the northeast guard gate was recessed back into its correct position and traffic through the Poe Lock resumed before 11:00 p.m.

The gate was dislodged from its proper position and the lock was closed around 11:00 a.m. Friday morning after rock and other material wedged under the gate due to forceful turbulence.

Once the Corps realized there was an issue ships in the area were notified and Corps vessel/lock crew teams mobilized to evaluate the situation and determine a solution.

After several attempts to move the gate back into its proper position failed, the Soo Locks crews began removing obstructions preventing gate movement.

Using vessels and equipment at the locks, Corps crew members removed more than 70 cubic yards of material, including pieces of sandstone up to 200 pounds, from under the gate eventually allowing the gate to open and close.

The Corps notified and coordinated efforts with the Lake Carriers Association, the Canadian Ship Owners, and the U.S. Coast Guard.

According to vessel reports the following vessels were directly impacted by the closure: Three large vessels were tied up on piers awaiting transit (the up bound MESABI MINER, and PAUL R. TEGURTHA, and the down bound PRESQUE ISLE). Two additional vessels are anchored close by (the down bound INDIANA HARBOR and the up bound salty FEDERAL MARGAREE.)

Additional vessels called the tower and adjusted their arrivals based on the backed up traffic.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District civil works program encompasses 82,000 square miles of land inhabited by about 14 million people in Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Ohio. The Corps operates and/or maintains 94 harbors. Its mission includes real estate transactions, flood control, regulatory activities, disaster response, and mobilization readiness.